

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 8 were canceled and claims 9 - 12 are pending in the application and were presented for examination on the merits.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 9 – 12 were subjected to an election of species requirement. Claims 10 – 12 are hereby withdrawn without prejudice or disclaimer.

By this Response to the Election of Species Requirement, an election without traverse is made.

Election of Species Requirement Summary

The Examiner has required election of one of the species in Figures 1, 9, 17, 25, 33, and 41 of the invention and required identification of the claims reading on the elected species.

Response

Applicant elects to continue prosecution of claim 9 as represented in Figure 1, without traverse. However, Applicants' election is in no way is an indication of an intent to limit the aforementioned claim to the embodiment depicted in Figures 1.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the restriction requirement, and to examine all of the claims pending in this application.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to conduct a substantive examination of the claims of this application. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding this matter, he is welcomed to contact the undersigned attorney at the below-

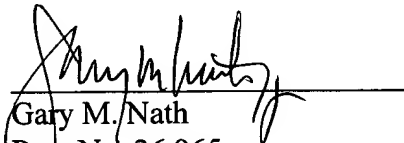
Appl. No.: 09/738,977
Art Unit: 2612
Attorney Docket No. 24462
Response to Election of Species
mailed January 25, 2005

listed number and address. In the event this paper is not timely filed, Applicants petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0112.

Respectfully submitted,
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